

HANFORD ADVISORY BOARD

A Site Specific Advisory Board, Chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act

Advising:

US Dept of Energy
US Environmental
Protection Agency
Washington State
Dept of Ecology

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VICE CHAIR:

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Hanford Project Office

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November 5, 2015

Kevin Smith, Manager

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection

P.O. Box 450 (H6-60)

Richland, WA 99352

Re: Worker Safety and Communication Restrictions

Dear Mr. Smith,

Since the inception of the Hanford Advisory Board (Board), one of the Board's primary values is the protection of worker health and safety at the Hanford Site. The Board continues to be concerned about the consequences of worker exposures to chemical vapors in Hanford's tank farms.

While the Board fully recognizes the legal aspects and effects of the tank vapors lawsuit(s) on this and related issues, it supports the recusal of Board members who might have conflict of interest because of the lawsuit(s). However the scope of the restrictions now imposed on Board public discussions seems unnecessarily broad.

We greatly appreciated Kevin Smith, U.S. Department of Energy – Office of River Protection (DOE-ORP) manager, updating the Board at the September Board meeting on tank farm mitigation efforts. The Board encourages DOE to revisit the communication restrictions, in hopes of minimizing tank farm information restricted areas to only those which directly bear on the on-going litigation. The Board hopes that DOE-ORP can continue to provide, as completely as possible, clear communications with the Board, the workers and the public regarding all safety issues including vapor exposures and the progress being made to resolve them. Openness will only improve Board and public trust in the DOE safety culture. The Board reaffirms that the health and safety of the Hanford Site work force will remain one of our primary concerns and that the Board will continue to actively monitor this and other important worker safety issues.

The Board wants and expects DOE to be successful in its efforts to safely remediate the Hanford Site. The Board reminds DOE that as concerned stakeholders we are willing and eager to work as openly and collaboratively, as possible, to help ensure that worker and public safety go hand in hand with environmental remediation.

Hanford Advisory Board

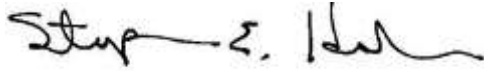
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Sincerely,
Steve Hudson, Chair



Hanford Advisory Board

cc: Stacy Charboneau, Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations
Jon Peschong, Co-Deputy Designated Official, U.S. Department of Energy Richland
Operations Office
Joanne Grindstaff, Co-Deputy Designated Official, U.S. Department of Energy Office of
River Protection
Dennis Faulk, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Jane Hedges, Washington State Department of Ecology
David Borak, U.S. Department of Energy, Headquarters
The Oregon and Washington Delegations